

# Help Protect Marine Wildlife

Seabirds and marine mammals are extremely sensitive to human disturbance. Because they view humans as predators, they will not tolerate close approach at any time. Disturbance often causes adults to flee their colonies, which can result in losses of eggs and young or complete colony abandonment.

Stay More Than  
**500 Feet**  
Away From Rocks,  
Islands and Cliffs

## Please Observe Boating and Recreational Guidelines

**Stay Back.** Studies have shown that seabirds and marine mammals may flee their colonies when closely approached by humans. Please do not approach rocks and islands closer than 500 feet, in boats or on foot. Aircraft are requested to maintain a minimum of 2,000 feet above the rocks and islands at all times.

**Use Caution.** Approach and depart areas near rocks and islands cautiously. Minimize noise and abrupt movements.

**Observe.** Take a few moments to observe the birds and mammals. If you see animals bobbing their heads, making alarm calls or departing from the colony, you are too close and should move away immediately.

**Conditions Change.** Don't assume a safe operating distance one day will be the same as the next, even at the same site. Be cautious and observant every time out.

**Wildlife Harassment is Against the Law.** Federal and State laws prohibit harassment of seabirds and marine mammals. Violators will be cited. Help protect Oregon's wildlife by reporting suspected violators to the Refuge Manager (541) 867-4550.



*Seabirds and marine mammals are especially vulnerable to disturbance during the breeding season which extends from April through September.*



*The Oregon coast is home to over a million nesting seabirds and tens of thousands of seals and sea lions. They depend on coastal rocks, islands and steep mainland cliffs where they are protected from mammalian predators.*

### Tenyo Maru Oil Spill

In July, 1991, the Japanese fishing vessel *Tenyo Maru* and the Chinese freighter *Tuo Hai* collided in heavy fog northwest of Cape Flattery, Washington. The *Tenyo Maru* sank immediately, releasing 475,000 gallons of oil and fuel that killed thousands of seabirds. This education panel was funded by the Tenyo Maru Natural Resource Trustees as one of a number of restoration projects designed to educate the public and to restore natural resources, particularly migratory birds injured by the oil spill. The Trustees include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Makah Indian Tribe and the State of Washington.

### Marine Wildlife Need Places Free from Disturbance

All rocks, reefs and islands along the Oregon coast are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge or Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these refuges are closed to public access at all times.

Most rocks and islands along the coasts of Washington and California are also closed to public access at all times. When visiting these states, please stay a safe distance away from rocks and islands to prevent disturbance to sensitive wildlife.